

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BELFAS 00283 101324Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SCCT-01 LAB-04 EB-07 SIL-01 /093 W

----- 041581

R 101216Z SEP 75

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1021

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 283

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: CRAIG RESIGNATION SIGNALS LOYALIST SPLIT

REF: BELFAST 281

1. WILLIAM CRAIG VANGUARD UNIONIST PARTY (VUP) LEADER RESIGNED SEPT. 9 AS LEADER 14 MAN GROUP OF THAT PARTY IN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. HE RETAINS LEADERSHIP VANGUARD PARTY AND REMAINS M.P. WESTMINSTER. IN WELTER OF WORDS FROM VARIOUS LOYALIST FACTIONS INCLUDING DEMOCRATIC UNIONIST IAN PAISLEY AND CRAIG HIMSELF IT BECOMING CLEAR THAT INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION OF "POWER SHARING" WAS NEVER SUBJECT DEBATE. CRAIG WHO LED UNIONIST SIDE IN INFORMAL TALKS WITH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) HAD SUGGESTED TO UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC) THAT TALKS EXPLORE POSSIBILITY THAT FUTURE DEVOLVED GOVERNMENT COULD, AT TIMES OF CRISIS, BE A COALITION GOVERNMENT SERVING AT PLEASURE PRIME MINISTER. IT WAS UUUC INCLUDING VANGUARD DELEGATES REJECTION THIS SUGGEST THAT CAUSED CRAIG RESIGN. CRAIG HAS CLAIMED THAT HE NEVER CONSIDERED "POWER SHARING" IN GOVERNMENT ON MODEL IMPOSED IN 1973. THERE HAVE BEEN SUGGESTIONS THAT, FURTHER, IN RETURN FOR SDLP AGREEMENT TO PROPOSAL AND FOR THEIR ACCEPTANCE FIRM LAW AND

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BELFAS 00283 101324Z

ORDER POLICY WITH EXPLICIT SUPPORT POLICY, AN UNWRITTEN

"GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT" WOULD ASSURE SDLP OF INCLUSION IN
"COALITION" CABINET FOR NEXT FIVE YEARS.

2. SO FAR NO VANGUARD UNIONIST HAS CRITICIZED CRAIG OR HIS
ACTION AND SEVERAL, INCLUDING GLENN BARR, HAVE EXPRESSED
SUPPORT. IT CLEAR BASIC CONFRONTATION IS BETWEEN CRAIG AND
IAN PAISLEY WITH ULSTER WORKERS COUNCIL IN EQUIVOCAL POSITION.
IN INTERESTS MAINTAINING FACADE UNITY VANGUARD AND UUUC MIGHT
YET REJECT CRAIG RESIGNATION ALLOWING FURTHER EXPLORATION
FOR COMPROMISE. SDLP HAS NOT COMMENTED BUT REACTION EXPECTED
BE GIVEN BEFORE CONVENTION MEETS SET. 11.

3. ANCIENT ANIMOSITIES IN CONTEXT CURRENT SECURITY SITUATION
MUST BE REMEMBERED IN ASSESSING ULSTER ATTITUDES. KILLING OF
AGED CATHOLIC IN BELFAST NIGHT SEPTEMBER 9 BRINGS ULSTER
ASSASSINATION TOLL THIS YEAR TO 105 - 49 PROTESTANTS, 55
CATHOLICS, ONE ASIAN. THERE FOUR LOCAL COUNCILS NOW
INOPERATIVE BECAUSE OF WALKOUTS OF LOYALIST COUNCIL MEN WHO
PROTESTING BRITISH SECURITY POLICY. MANY LOYALISTS WANT
ANY CONTACTS WITH PROVISIONAL IRA ENDED. THIS WOULD INCLUDE
CLOSURE INCIDENT CENTERS AND ENDING OF ANY CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN
PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN AND CIVIL SERVANTS. MOST PROTESTANTS
BELIEVE MASSACRE OF FIVE CIVILIANS AT NEWTOWN HAMILTON SEPT. 1
WAS WORK OF PROVISIONAL IRA AND SOME VIEW GOVERNMENT FAILURE
TO CRACK DOWN HARD ON PROVISIONALS AS SACRIFICE THEIR SAFETY
FOR OTHER OBJECTIVES. HOWEVER, IT DIFFICULT SEE HOW BRITISH
GOVERNMENT COULD TAKE REPRESSIVE COURSE WITHOUT RETURNING
PROVINCE TO AT LEAST PRECEASEFIRE LEVEL VIOLENCE. PROVISIONAL
IRA GAVE POINTED REMINDER THEIR CAPABILITY IN SIMULTANEOUS
PLACEMENT FIVE STOLEN VEHICLES IN DOWNTOWN BELFAST SEPT. 3.
ALTHOUGH CARS DID NOT CONTAIN EXPLOSIVES CONSEQUENT TOTAL
DISRUPTION AT BOMB SCARES WAS SUFFICIENT OBJECT LESSON.
SPICER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL LEADERS, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BELFAS00283
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750313-0385
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750963/aaaacebf.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BELFAST 281
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 MAR 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <29 JAN 2004 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CRAIG RESIGNATION SIGNALS LOYALIST SPLIT
TAGS: PINT, UK, (CRAIG, WILLIAM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006